NC Check-Ins
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The following FAQ has been developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to assist districts/schools in the implementation of the NC Check-Ins. This information should be used in conjunction with any published supplements or updates. Additional information about NC Check-Ins may be found at http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/accountability/nccheckins.

Purpose and Participation

1. **What are NC Check-Ins?**
   The NC Check-Ins are formative benchmark assessments for English Language Arts (ELA)/Reading and Mathematics that are administered throughout the school year to provide teachers and parents with immediate feedback for guiding subsequent instruction. Students are administered three NC Check-Ins during the school year and the NC ELA/Reading and Mathematics End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments during the last ten days of the designated school year. The NC Check-Ins are aligned to the NC *Standard Course of Study* (NC*SCS*) and are built using items from the EOG item bank.

2. **What grade levels are NC Check-Ins available?**
   For the 2017–18 school year, the following NC Check-Ins are available

   - Grades 4–6 Mathematics
   - Grades 5–7 ELA/Reading

3. **Are schools required to participate in the NC Check-Ins?**
   School participation in the NC Check-Ins is voluntary and open to all local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools.

Test Administration and Format

1. **Are there assessment windows or can districts/schools determine the local window?**
   Local education agencies (LEAs)/charter schools may determine the testing days for each NC Check-In within the NCDPI-designated assessment windows. The assessment windows for NC Check-Ins are as follows:

   - NC Check-In 1: October 16–November 20, 2017
   - NC Check-In 2: January 2–February 14, 2018
   - NC Check-In 3: March 1–April 13, 2018

2. **What formats are NC Check-Ins administered?**
   The NC Check-Ins are provided in paper-and-pencil and online formats.

3. **How much time will it take to complete the NC Check-Ins?**
   The administration time for an NC Check-In is 90 minutes. However, teachers can provide more time if needed by individual students.

4. **What are the item types on the NC Check-Ins?**
   - The Grade 4 Mathematics NC Check-Ins contain all multiple-choice items.
   - The Grades 5 and 6 Mathematics NC Check-Ins contain multiple-choice and gridded response items. Gridded response items require students to write and fill in numerical answers on their answer sheets rather than to select answers from several choices. For online testing, students

type a numerical answer into a text box. All gridded response questions appear in the calculator inactive portion.

- The Mathematics NC Check-Ins are in two parts: The first part is calculator inactive; the second is calculator active. <u>Note</u>: The Grade 4 Mathematics NC Check-In 1 contains calculator inactive questions only.
  - o For the calculator inactive part, students are **not** allowed to use a calculator.
  - o For the calculator active part, students can use a calculator.
- The ELA/Reading NC Check-Ins contain all multiple-choice items.

5. **Are proctors required?**
A proctor is neither required not should one be used for the administration of the NC Check-Ins.

6. **Must test administrators remove displays from their walls for the NC Check-Ins?**
Teachers are **not** required to remove bulletin boards and instructional displays from walls.

Accommodations and Alternate Assessments

1. **Are instructional accommodations allowed for the NC Check-Ins?**
Students with current Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Section 504 Plans, or English Learner (EL) documentation may use instructional accommodations for the NC Check-Ins <u>except for the</u> *Test Read Aloud* and *Signing/Cueing* <u>accommodations for the grades 5–7 ELA/Reading</u>. Reading aloud or signing/cueing the selections, questions, or answer choices on the ELA/Reading Check-In invalidates results because the Check-In measures reading skills.

2. **Is there an alternate assessment for the NC Check-Ins?**
There is no alternate assessment available for the NC Check-Ins. Students with disabilities who, according to their IEP documentation, participate in the ***NCEXTEND1*** alternate assessment in accordance with state policies do not participate in the NC Check-Ins.

Scoring, Reporting, and Accountability

1. **What is the time schedule for scoring and returning NC Check-Ins results?**
The LEA test coordinator and the Regional Accountability Coordinator (RAC) for charter schools will scan all NC Check-Ins. The score reports for these Check-Ins will be available on the day of testing.

2. **What type of information will be provided to teachers? To parents?**
Each NC Check-In will generate student-level reports indicating the number of items correct by content standard, item type, and selection type, and will report an overall score. Teacher-level reports will provide a summary with similar information. Parents will receive student reports with an overall score by standard and item number. Students will <u>not</u> receive achievement levels for the NC Check-Ins.

3. **Will the NC Check-In items be available to teachers after each administration?**
Following the administration of an NC Check-In, teachers have access to the materials for up to five weeks. Teachers may use the materials for reviews with students, and parents may view the materials, but only within the school setting. The teacher may share with parents their student's scores on the items through customary communication (i.e., individual parent/teacher conferences at the school). Parents may not have copies of the NC Check-In items or materials, nor take pictures of any part of the materials.

4. **Will district and state comparison data be reported for the NC Check-Ins?**
   District and state comparison data will be reported by student, teacher, and school. Comparing district-level results to state-level results is not particularly meaningful. Different schools and classes may be at different places in covering the content based on their testing windows and school calendars. The purpose of the NC Check-In is to provide individual and classroom-level *formative* feedback. Comparisons to other classrooms, schools, or LEAs are neither encouraged, nor advised. It would be a misinterpretation for an LEA/charter school to conclude that their students performed better or worse than another LEA/charter school or the state. The value in the NC Check-In results is for teachers to determine if their students have learned the content standards that were covered in their classroom prior to the assessments.

5. **Will the NC Check-Ins "predict" performance on the EOG assessment?**
   The NC Check-Ins administered during 2017–18 will <u>not</u> predict performance on the EOG assessment; however, there is direct connection from the NC Check-Ins to the EOG assessment.

6. **Will the NC-Check-In scores be included in accountability calculations?**
   NC Check-In scores are not included in accountability.

Other

1. **Will sample districts/charter schools continue to administer local benchmark assessments?**
   For best practices, the North Carolina Testing Program strongly recommends that schools administering NC Check-Ins do not additionally administer a local benchmark for the same subject (i.e., ELA/reading and/or mathematics). For example, a grade 4 student participating only in the mathematics NC Check-In may take a local benchmark for English language arts/reading but not for mathematics.